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REMARKS

This paper is responsive to an Office Action mailed October 31, 2007. Prior to this response, claims 1, 4-11, and 14-20 were pending. After amending claims 1 and 11, canceling claims 7, 10, and 18, and adding new claims 21-22, claims 1, 4-6, 8-9, 11, 14-17, and 19-22 remain pending.

In Section 1 of the Office Action claims 1 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In response, claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 10 has been canceled.

In Section 4 of the Office Action claims 1, 4, 10-11, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Gauthier (US 2002/0122205).

In Section 6 of the Office Action claims 8-9 and 19-20 have been rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) with Gauthier in view of Hull (US 5,978,477).


Section 7 of the Office Action states that claims 5-7 and 15-18 would be found allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the subject matter of the bas and intervening claims. In response, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 7, now canceled. All claims dependent from claim 1 should now be found allowable. Claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 18, now canceled. All claims dependent from claim 11 should now be found allowable. New claim 21 has been added, which includes the subject

matter of claims 1 and 5. New claim 22 has been added, which includes the subject matter of claims 11 and 15. Note: the Applicant neither expressly agrees nor disagrees with the stated reasons for allowance.

It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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